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UPDATE

Gay activists say Cincinnati boycott working

Two large conventions lost after law repealed

Gazette Telegraph and news services

Cincinnati has lost two conventions since residents voted to repeal an anti-discrimination law for homosexuals, and gay activists are pressing for other convention organizers to pull out.

Gay & Lesbian March Activists-ACT UP Cincinnati organized an economic boycott patterned after one used last year in Colorado after Cincinnati voters passed a measure in November nullifying the gay rights section of the city's anti-discrimination law. A federal judge blocked the measure's implementation pending a court challenge that is to be heard June 20.

"Things are moving kind of slowly, but we're happy that in the short time the boycott has been in effect there have been two major cancellations," boycott coordinator Todd Kamm said. "We are hopeful there will be more cancellations."

The American Historical Association decided last weekend to cancel its January 1995 conference in Cincinnati. Last month, the city lost the American Library Association's 1995 convention. Both groups said they canceled because of the November vote.

The loss of the AHA convention is expected to cost the city $3 million, and the library convention will cost $5 million, said Beth Charlton, spokeswoman for the Greater Cincinnati Convention & Visitors Bureau.

She said it was too early to say if other groups might cancel.

"Organizations have expressed a need for more information. They have expressed concern," she said. "But at this point, we are not awaiting any other cancellations.

Cincinnati made $236 million from conventions last year, Charlton said.

The human rights ordinance, adopted by the City Council in 1992, bans discrimination in jobs and housing on the basis of race, sex, national origin, physical disability or sexual orientation. The measure passed last November deletes the sexual-orientation provision.

The boycott is patterned after one launched in Colorado in November 1992 after voters approved Amendment 2, which would prohibit laws protecting gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. The amendment has been ruled unconstitutional by a Denver district judge, but that decision is being appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court.

Boycott Colorado organizers say the boycott cost the state about $120 million in lost conventions, canceled meetings and decisions not to locate new businesses in the state.

Despite those loses, the state's tourism industry claimed a good year and increases in sales tax revenues and retail sales were recorded. And the state's ski resorts saw a 40 percent increase in profits before taxes during the 1992-93 ski season, according to a survey conducted for the National Ski Areas Association by an accounting firm.

STATE

Law may require homeless get first crack at Lowry

Base to shut down in September

Associated Press

DENVER — The question of whether to use Lowry Air Force Base to house the homeless already has been answered by federal law, said an Air Force official.

According to Teresa Pohlman, project manager for the Air Force Base Conversion Agency, the McKinney Act of 1987 mandates that providers of homeless housing get priority when the government is deciding what to

Frinzi said the conversion agency may have to get a clarification from the U.S. Department of Justice about exactly what arguments would be considered compelling and meritorious.

Jennifer Moulton, Denver's planning director, said that when Congress passed the McKinney Act, it did not anticipate base closures.

"The goal was to make use of one or two surplus buildings," Mouton said. "With base clo-

Associated Press

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